Claims

[c1]	A method for distributing a print task among multiple printers, said method comprising the acts of: sending a print task to a print processor; sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and modifying said print task with said print processor.
[c2]	The method of claim 1 wherein said sending said print task modification commands comprises reading command data from a configuration file.
[c3]	The method of claim 1 further comprising the act of prompting a user for print task modification commands.
[c4]	The method of claim 2 wherein said prompting is print-processor based.
[c5]	The method of claim 2 wherein said prompting is driver-based.
[c6]	The method of claim 1 wherein said modification comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks.
[c7]	The method of claim 5 wherein said dividing comprises job splitting.
[c8]	The method of claim 5 wherein said dividing comprises copy splitting.
[c9]	The method of claim 5 wherein said dividing comprises a combination of copy splitting and job splitting.
[c10]	The method of claim 1 wherein said modifying comprises dividing said print task into multiple modified print tasks and further comprising the act of distributing said multiple modified print tasks to a plurality of printing devices.
[c11]	The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is a printer-ready file.
[c12]	The method of claim 1 wherein said print task is journalled printer data.
[c13]	A print processor capable of modifying a print task according to print task modification commands, said print processor comprising:

an input for receiving a print task; an interface for receiving a print task modification command; and an output for sending at least one modified print task.

[c14]	The print processor of claim 11 wherein said interface receives print task
	modification commands independently of said input for receiving a print
	task.

- [c15] The print processor of claim 11 wherein said interface is a dialog box.
- [c16] The print processor of claim 11 wherein said interface prompts a user for job splitting parameters.
- [c17] The print processor of claim 11 wherein said interface prompts a user for copy splitting parameters.
- [c18] The print processor of claim 11 wherein said interface prompts a user for copy splitting and job splitting parameters.
- [c19] The print processor of claim 11 wherein said interface prompts a user for multiple printer selection.
- [c20] A computer readable medium comprising instructions for modifying a print task with a print processor, said instructions comprising the acts of:

sending a print task to a print processor; sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and modifying said print task with said print processor.

[c21] A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of modifying a print task with a print processor, said signal comprising instructions for:

sending a print task to a print processor; sending print task modification commands to said print processor; and modifying said print task with said print processor. [c22] A method for modifying a print task with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:

sending a print task to a driver;
prompting a user for print task modification commands;
creating a spool file for said print task;
sending said spool file to a spooler;
spooling said spool file to a modifying print processor;
modifying said print task according to said print task modification
commands thereby creating at least one modified print task;
sending said at least one modified print task to at least one printing
device.

[c23] A method for distributing a print task to multiple printing devices with a print processor, said method comprising the acts of:

generating a print task from an application, said print task being configured for printing on a single printing device; invoking a print driver for combining device initialization and environment data for said single printing device and print task data from said application and creating a spool file; obtaining cluster printing data; sending said spool file to a spooler; spooling said spool file to a cluster–enabled print processor (CPP); modifying said spool file data with said CPP to cause said print task to be distributed to multiple printing devices thereby creating at least one modified print task; and sending said at least one modified print task to said multiple printing devices.